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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.       A method for transmitting data in a bitstream having a plurality of frame  
2 portions, the bitstream obeying a protocol that permits the transmission of private data in  
3 a private data portion, the method comprising:  
4                   receiving data from a data source;  
5                   determining syntax information for the data;  
6                   encoding the data and the syntax information into an encoded bitstream,  
7 the syntax information being included in the private data portion of the encoded  
8 bitstream; and  
9                   transmitting the encoded bitstream.
- 1           2.       The method according to claim 1, wherein the syntax information permits  
2 a decoder to identify a bit at which decoding should begin.
- 1           3.       The method according to claim 2, wherein each frame portion includes at  
2 least one private data portion.
- 1           4.       The method according to claim 1, wherein the syntax information permits  
2 a decoder to determine if any bits in the frame portion contain errors.
- 1           5.       The method according to claim 1, wherein the syntax information permits  
2 a decoder to determine if any of the bits in the bitstream contain errors.
- 1           6.       The method according to claim 1, wherein the syntax information permits  
2 a decoder to determine if any of the bits of at least one sub-portion of the frame portion  
3 contains errors.
- 1           7.       The method according to claim 1, wherein each of the frame portions  
2 further includes at least one or more sub-portions, the sub-portions can vary in number  
3 and size between different frame portions.
- 1           8.       The method according to claim 7, wherein the syntax information includes  
2 at least length information of each of the sub-portions of each frame portion.
- 1           9.       The method according to claim 8, wherein a decoder can use the length  
2 information to skip sub-portions of the frame portion that are determined to contain  
3 errors.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the frame portion further includes a plurality of elements, each element including an element ID that identifies a type of element in the bitstream.

5 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of elements include at least a data stream element having a data stream ID.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the data stream element further includes a tag that identifies the type of data contained in a data portion of the data stream element.

1 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein when the tag corresponds to a  
2 transport identifier, wherein the data stream element includes protocol information in the  
3 data portion of the data stream element.

4 14. An apparatus that transmits data in a bitstream having a plurality of frame  
5 portions, the bitstream obeying a protocol that permits the transmission of private data in  
6 a private data portion, the apparatus comprising:

7 a transmitter that receives data from a data source, determines syntax  
8 information for the data, encodes the data and the syntax information into an encoded  
9 bitstream, the syntax information being included in the private data portion of the  
10 encoded bitstream, and transmits the encoded bitstream.

1 15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the syntax information  
2 permits a decoder to identify a bit at which decoding should begin.

1 16. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein each frame portion includes  
2 at least one private data portion.

1 17. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the syntax information  
2 permits a decoder to determine if any bits in the frame portion contain errors.

1 18. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the syntax information  
2 permits a decoder to determine if any of the bits in the bitstream contain errors.

1 19. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the syntax information  
2 permits a decoder to determine if any of the bits of at least one sub-portion of the frame  
3 portion contains errors.

20. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein each of the frame portions further includes at least one or more sub-portions, the sub-portions can vary in number and size between different frame portions.

21. The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the syntax information  
5 includes at least length information of each of the sub-portions of each frame portion.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a decoder can use the length information to skip sub-portions of the frame portion that are determined to contain errors.

23. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the frame portion further  
10 includes a plurality of elements, each element including an element ID that identifies a type of element in the bitstream.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the plurality of elements include at least a data stream element having a data stream ID.

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the data stream element  
15 further includes a tag that identifies the type of data contained in a data portion of the data stream element.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein when the tag corresponds to a transport identifier, wherein the data stream element includes protocol information in the data portion of the data stream element.